

"The Principle of Reciprocity"

Luke 8:11-15

11 Corinthisian 9:6

- Reciprocity -> The principle of a return in kind or little value  
- The act of being reciprocal -

Two statues -> One depicting - The sower - a man with a basket in his hands, filled with seeds, ready to sow. He has a look of anticipation on his face -

The other statue was a man holding a basket, filled with that which he ~~had~~ <sup>new</sup> harvested. On his face was a look of joy.

For one statue - its a look of anticipation - For the other it is a look of rejoicing -

BUT for both farmers there are certain things that must happen in order for their ~~anticipation~~ <sup>anticipation</sup> & joys to be fulfilled.

- For them to enjoy the fruit of their labor, they must have good seed, an adequate preparation of the soil, enough water and other weather conditions to create a favorable climate for a good harvest. (personal experience)

- Slave-cropping plantation - you are always praying for conditions that could cause a bountiful harvest. Hoping that you can harvest enough to get out of debt.

Paul, writing to the church in Corinth warned them that @ practice of reciprocity - He says in ~~11~~ 11 Corinthisian 9:6; "Remember this saying,

"A few seeds make a small harvest,  
but a lot of seeds make  
a big harvest."

In other words he is saying: "you'll reap what you sow." If you sow sparingly, you will reap sparingly, but if you ~~sow~~ <sup>sow</sup> bountifully you reap bountifully.

He tells the Corinthian Christians that they must make up their own minds as to what they should give the church. He reminded them that they must not feel sorry that you must give and don't feel that

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that you are forced to give. God loves people who come to give. God can bless you with everything you need, and you will always have more than enough to do all kinds of things for others." O gives seed to farmers and provides everyone with food. He will increase what you have, so that you can give even more to those in need. You will be blessed in every way, and you will be able to keep on being generous."

Paul in 1 Cor 8, spoke to the Corinthian Christians of the primary motive for giving. One of the basic questions Paul wanted the Corinthians to understand was that you do not give to get. Our primary motive for giving is to share. God has given us so much - His only begotten Son.

God is pouring out of a bucket larger than ~~our~~ <sup>ours</sup> - Paul is saying that we do reap what we sow - our chickens do come home to roost.

- Generosity is never a loser - it is the sense of being able to alleviate a need. It is not how great an amount but how we feel about giving (The story of Norfolk bus driver). We do not give to get but to show love.
- There are challenges to our sowing the seed - We don't just put the seeds in the ground and expect them to reap a bountiful harvest. The seeds, once they come out of the ground must be cultivated.
- When we ~~we~~ sow the seeds, you have to let them grow.
- How much do we share of our harvest with God. How ~~much~~ <sup>much</sup> shared what he has brought to us.
- So many Presbyterians have shared so much of their substance <sup>with</sup> others.
- Presbyterian Foundation \$1.3 m. it is the board of trustees' responsibility to invest and manage those funds to help and care for others, e.g. educationally, medically, <sup>mission needs</sup> etc.
- Paul reminds the Corinthians that "the more they share with others the more they would have for themselves."

- The Median <sup>family</sup> income in America is \$34,000. In our church it is much higher - But how faithful have you been to O  
- This church is blessed to be a blessing - We should not be scrambling to do anything. During this 40 year anniversary this church should get fired up in its support of O and His mission. We are blessed to be a blessing. What kind of church will Christ 20, 30, 40 years? The answer depends on you! Or Peter Hill, ask, "If every member in this church was like me, what kind of church would this be?"